

two Houses thereon, and that the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The motion was agreed to; and the Presiding Officer (Mr. CAMPBELL) appointed Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BOND, Mr. GORTON, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BURNS, Mr. HATFIELD, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. KERREY, Mr. JOHNSTON, Mr. KOHL, and Mr. BYRD conferees on the part of the Senate.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I want to compliment the good effort of all of the members of our committee and our staffs for the work they have done in preparing this bill, in getting it to the floor and handling the bill and answering questions, and my colleagues' dealing with amendments and all of the things that go into managing a bill on the floor of the Senate.

We appreciate the cooperation of all Senators in getting the bill passed in a timely fashion.

I especially want to single out for praise the staff members of this subcommittee: Rebecca Davies, Hunt Shipman, Jimmie Reynolds, Galen Fountain, and Carole Geagley. We thank them very much for their hard work and their expert assistance.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

The Senate continued with consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 2708

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair would note the pending question now is the Brown second-degree amendment to the committee on page 16 of H.R. 1868.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may proceed for about 7 or 8 minutes in morning business.

Mr. BROWN. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, I will not object, but the distinguished Senators were concerned about the Pakistan amendment I have offered. I will make available an intelligence briefing to Senators in the near period.

I will not object to this, but I do want the Senate to know that I believe Senator LEVIN from Michigan and others will arrange for an intelligence briefing related to this, and those interested should contact Senator LEVIN for that briefing. I think that may speed it up.

I do not object.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, will the Senator yield? I inquire of the Senator from Colorado whether he objects to our temporarily laying aside his amendment and taking up other amendments?

Mr. BROWN. The concerns expressed by Senator LEVIN and Senator GLENN do request some additional time for this briefing. I think it would be only due courtesy to them to allow some ad-

ditional time, so I will not object to moving ahead with the D'Amato amendment.

Mr. GLENN. Reserving the right to object, and I will not object, it is a little premature to say we have this set up or to imply we do because we do not have it set up. We do not know whether we can get the proper official to do the briefing. We will arrange that as fast as we can and let everybody know about that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection to the request of the Senator from New Jersey for 7 minutes under morning business?

Hearing no objection, the Senator is recognized.

FDA SHOULD REGULATE TOBACCO

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I wanted to take a little time to comment on some legislation that was introduced this morning by my colleague, friend, and distinguished Senator from Kentucky earlier this day, having to do with tobacco.

Mr. President, let me begin by commending the Senator from Kentucky for his acknowledgment that smoking is a serious public health problem among our young people.

Senator FORD's legislation seeks to curb advertising directed at young people and to limit children's access to tobacco. These are important goals. However, I strongly oppose the provision in the Senator's legislation that would seek to strip the FDA from asserting its authority to regulate tobacco products.

Mr. President, nicotine is an addictive drug. This has not only been proven by a number of scientific studies, but was also revealed in confidential industry documents in the past year.

Consider the following statement contained in an industry document by an official with the Brown and Williamson tobacco company. It said, "Moreover, nicotine is addictive. We are then," he goes on to say "in the business of selling nicotine, an addictive drug." Mr. President, this is directly from the tobacco industry.

Now, last month President Clinton took a bold step to fight teenage smoking. He stood up to the industry, the tobacco industry, and he did the right thing. He deserves a lot of credit. President Clinton took the side of parents, American parents. They do not want their children smoking. Neither do I and neither do most here.

The President is targeting smoking by teenagers, and I agree with this approach. It goes right to the source of the problem, especially if you consider the following: 3,000 children start smoking every day. More than 80 percent of all smokers had their first cigarette before the age of 18. If a child does not smoke before age 18, it is very unlikely that they will become a smoker in their adult life.

More than half of all adult smokers had already become addicted regular

smokers before they were 18 years of age.

It is clear that smoking is a pediatric disease that ultimately contributes to over 400,000 deaths a year, enormous financial costs, terrific family dislocation and puts a burden on us that continues to add problems to our deficit.

Unfortunately, it is getting worse. Between 1991 and 1994, the percentage of eighth graders who smoked increased by 30 percent. The percentage of 10th graders who smoke increased by 22 percent.

Mr. President, we need the FDA to help us fight this major public health problem. Nicotine is an addictive drug, and the FDA is supposed to regulate addictive drugs. There is no reason to make a special exception for the tobacco industry.

Mr. President, it would be a terrible mistake to tie the agency's hands in this critical area. We need a strong watchdog to ensure compliance with the President's initiatives. We also have to be prepared to take additional steps to reduce teenage smoking. The FDA has a critical role to play.

Mr. President, ensuring compliance with President Clinton's new initiative is not going to be easy. In fact, I now have seen firsthand how easy it is for children to purchase tobacco products. In New Jersey, we have fairly strict rules on the ability to purchase tobacco by those underage. I went on a New Jersey Health Department compliance check in a couple of towns in New Jersey with two 17-year-olds. We went to 10 places to purchase cigarettes. These minors were able to purchase cigarettes at all 10 locations without a question, whether it was a machine which was supposed to be controlled by the management of the store of the location or whether it was directly over the counter.

This is outrageous, Mr. President. The products they were able to buy—and this is not to single out a particular brand because that is irrelevant—but the products are the ones that we commonly see, the better advertised, the more popular. They just happen to be there; some of them had room on the counter. You did not even have to look at the clerk to buy them—just get up and pay for them, no questions asked.

Mr. President, I think it is obvious keeping tobacco away from young people is going to be very difficult. We need the FDA to help lead that battle.

Now, unfortunately, the legislation of our distinguished colleague from Kentucky will strip them of the power needed to respond to this public health crisis. I intend to strongly oppose the proposal and to fight as hard as I can to protect the health and well-being and the futures of our young people.

I yield the floor.

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent I might proceed as in morning business for 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.